

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
Masahiro KATO et al.)	
)	
Application No.: Unassigned)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
)	
Filed: April 20, 2004)	Examiner: Unassigned

For: INFORMATION RECORDING APPARATUS AND INFORMATION
RECORDING METHOD

Commissioner for Patents
MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application and before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a language other than English.

a. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2000-149302. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 2 of the specification of the present application and is shown in the English-language abstract.


b. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2002-230813. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 2 of the specification of the present application and is shown in the English-language abstract.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 20, 2004

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	Applicants Masahiro KATO et al.	
	Filing Date April 20, 2004	Group Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	<u>Translation</u>	
							YES	NO
		2000-149302	May 30, 2000	Japan			w/abstract	
		2002-230813	Aug. 16, 2002	Japan			w/abstract	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

Examiner	Date Considered
Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	